

June 19, 1977

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World Council of Churches

Mr. William Wipfler

Latin America Dept.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): 136

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Sir,

In my utmost grief as a mother I am writing to you to ask your intercession before the Argentine authorities in the case of my 17-year-old daughter Adriana Gatti, who disappeared on April 9th 1977 in the city of Buenos Aires.

The demand of "habeas corpus" presented on May 20th, 1977, before the Federal Court 1, Section 4, met -as usually happens in these cases- with a negative response. We have appealed to all legal means to no avail.

A year ago, on June 9th 1976, my husband Gerardo Gatti, Uruguayan trade-union leader, was kidnapped in Buenos Aires by security forces in circumstances analogous to those that now surround my daughter's disappearance. Since then, all the enquiries I conducted in this year have not produced any information as to his fate.

On August 4th 1976 I came to France with my two other children under the protection of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and we are living since then in France with the status of political refugees.

My daughter Adriana remained in Argentina with her fiancé Ricardo Carpintero, from whom she expected a baby. Ricardo Carpintero was also kidnapped in Buenos Aires on March 25th 1977. In his case, the demand of "habeas corpus" interposed by his parents gave also negative results. In Argentina, the authorities are in the habit of denying the kidnappings performed by their own armed forces.

In my refuge in France, my inability to arrive by my own means to learn where is my daughter, knowing as I do that each day may be decisive to her life, is a source of continuous distress. Adriana had a visit from the French Government that she intended to use upon the birth of her baby.

She was kidnapped in the last weeks of her pregnancy, a fact which aggravates the vulnerability of her youth and the uncertainty about the baby's

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life.

I ask for your help in these terrible circumstances that have befallen my family, which are unluckily representative of what is happening today in our countries and will continue to happen if something is not done to modify this cruel situation.

At the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva I had a personal interview with Mr Harper, who was most attentive to my case.

I hope that your activity and the help of all those who are concerned for the defense of human rights may bring me, and all those who are in my case, relief as to the whereabouts of their loved ones.

I am sending you photocopies of my daughter's documents. At the same time, I ask you if you would be so kind as to send me the copies of your interventions.

My adress is: Madame Marta Gatti, []

Bb

Sincerely yours,

Marta Gatti